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Welsh Government

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Toolkit for schools delivering educational resources

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.



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Overview

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence can have a huge impact on children and young people. It can affect their safety, health and wellbeing, educational attainment, family and peer relationships, and their ability to enjoy healthy, happy, respectful relationships in the future. It is likely that there will be young people and staff within your school who are experiencing or perpetrating violence against women, domestic abuse or sexual violence.

As part of the comprehensive package of education measures being developed to support the implementation of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015, Welsh Women's Aid in partnership with AVA (Against Violence and Abuse) were commissioned by Welsh Government to research and compile a package of recommended materials to be utilised as best practice in relation to these matters for use in primary, secondary and further education settings.

This suite of resources is presented as an overarching toolkit which should be used with the accompanying information and guidance for each of the aforementioned education settings as appropriate. It is intended to complement, and should be used in conjunction with, the Good Practice Guide – Whole Education Approach to Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Wales.



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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (WALES) ACT 2015 - EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Toolkit for Schools delivering educational resources

This toolkit is provided to accompany the Welsh Women's Aid and AVA review of existing healthy relationships and gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence related teaching resources, commissioned by Welsh Government.

This toolkit should be used in conjunction with the Good Practice Guide - Whole Education Approach to Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Wales.

Introduction

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence are serious, complex and sensitive issues which have wide reaching implications for children and young people across Wales, and the education settings they access.

References in this toolkit to 'violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence' or 'violence and abuse' should be read to capture all forms of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence as defined in section 24 of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

The Welsh Government has adopted the following definitions in the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. Domestic abuse is physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse where the victim is or has been associated with the abuser. Gender-based violence is violence, threats of violence or harassment arising directly or indirectly from values, beliefs or customs relating to gender or sexual orientation, female genital mutilation and forced marriage. Sexual violence includes sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, or threats of violence of a sexual nature. It is important to note that emotional abuse and coercive control are common within all forms of abuse.

It is recognised that whilst men can be victims of violence and abuse, and that abuse also happens within same sex relationships, the majority of abuse is targeted towards women and girls and as such this is a gendered issue. Women are much more likely to experience domestic abuse and/or sexual violence, more likely to be injured or killed, more likely to experience threats, harassment and post-separation abuse and more likely to be afraid or distressed by the abuse than men. However, the resources in this pack do not target boys as potential perpetrators, but more as those needing support due to living with domestic abuse or being abused in their own relationships, as well as allies, bystanders and advocates in challenging and ending violence against women.



Prevalence

- At least 750,000 children a year witness domestic violence. Around one in twenty children is witness to frequent physical violence between parents¹.
- 33% of girls and 16% of boys reported some form of sexual abuse within their relationship.
- 25% of girls (the same proportion as adult women) and 18% of boys reported some form of physical relationship abuse.
- 75% of girls and 50% of boys reported some form of emotional relationship abuse²
- 1.4 million women and 700,000 men aged 16-59 report experiencing incidents of domestic abuse in the past year, in England and Wales; younger women aged 16-24 are most at risk and a woman is killed every 2.4 days in the UK, with 148 UK women killed by men in 2014³
- 1 in 5 women (aged 16 – 59) have experienced some form of sexual violence since the age of 16.⁴

Why do schools and education settings need to do this work?

A significant number of children and young people in your schools will be experiencing or will have experienced violence and/or abuse. Although their experiences are individual, it is likely that the impact of abuse will be long lasting and will affect all areas of their lives, including their education.

As well as those children and young people who have personal experiences, it is also important to work across the whole school with all students to develop awareness about healthy relationships and how to stay safe in their own relationships in the future. It is also important to challenge negative myths and stereotypes and provide children and young people with the knowledge they need to have safe and healthy relationships. Schools provide a safe environment where positive and respectful relationships can be modelled and where children, young people and their families can safely seek advice and support.

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence is preventable, it is not inevitable. Given that children and young people spend a significant proportion of their lives in school, education settings are crucial to identify, challenge, prevent and intervene early to stop violence and abuse. Children and young people want to learn about sex, relationships, respect and abuse.

In one UK survey in 2007 by the UK Youth Parliament of over 20,000 young people aged under 18:

¹ Cawson, P., Wattam, C., Brooker, S. and Kelly, G. (2000) *Child Maltreatment in the United Kingdom: A study of the prevalence of abuse and neglect*. NSPCC

² NSPCC (2022) Partner exploitation and violence in teenage intimate relationships

³ Office for National Statistics (2015), citing the Homicide index from the Home Office.

⁴ Ministry of Justice, Home Office & the Office for National Statistics (2013) An Overview of Sexual Offending in England and Wales: Statistics bulletin



- 40% thought the sex and relationships education (SRE) they had received was either poor or very poor,
- 61% of boys and 70% of girls reported not having any information about personal relationships at school, and
- 73% felt that SRE should be taught before the age of 13.

There are three important reasons for schools to promote gender equality and challenge violence and abuse:

1. Education institutions have *legal* responsibilities to do so through child protection,
2. There is a strong *business* case for this area of work and,
3. Finally but most importantly, there is a *moral* imperative to promote gender equality and stop violence and abuse.

The legal case

The impact of abuse on behaviour – Schools have a legal responsibility under Section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to have a behaviour policy, which includes measures to encourage ‘good behaviour and respect for others on the part of pupils and, in particular, preventing all forms of bullying among pupils’.

Keeping learners safe: The role of Local Authorities, governing bodies and proprietors of independent schools under the Education Act 2002

This guidance, published in 2015, sets out the responsibilities of Local Authorities, governing bodies of all maintained schools, pupil referral units, Further Education institutions (FE institutions) and proprietors of independent schools to have arrangements for exercising their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Wales. Chapter 4 sets out safeguarding responsibilities in specific circumstances including gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Section 4.80 states that prevention work should be integrated, where practical, into all aspects of school life and addressed at all appropriate points in the curriculum, for example in English, Welsh, Religious Education and Personal and Social Education (PSE). High quality PSE helps to create a positive school ethos where pupils have a safe environment in which to learn and have the opportunity and confidence to share concerns with others. The document also offers useful guidance on child sexual exploitation, e-safety, teenage intimate partner abuse and female genital mutilation.

Other relevant legislation includes: The Education (Parenting Contracts and Parenting Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2010 and Implementation of the safeguarding vulnerable groups act 2006: The education (independent schools) (unsuitable persons) (wales) Regulations 2009.

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence are child protection issues and should be responded to as such.



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The business case

Many children and young people in the education setting will have experienced violence and abuse, and this will have an impact on their behaviour. Around a third of students in any school are likely to be living in, or have had experience of living in an abusive or violent home situation. Furthermore, if young people are experiencing harassment or bullying within the school, they are likely not to feel safe or be able to focus on their education. Children and young people who can be protected, supported and prevented from experiencing violence will do better within education and throughout their life.

It is also likely that some members of staff are living with, or have a history of experiencing abuse and violence. Experience of violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence will impact on an adult's capabilities and the input they are able to give to the young people in their care, and they may need support to deal with their experiences. Education settings that support staff who have experienced violence against women and girls or domestic abuse or sexual violence will have happier staff.

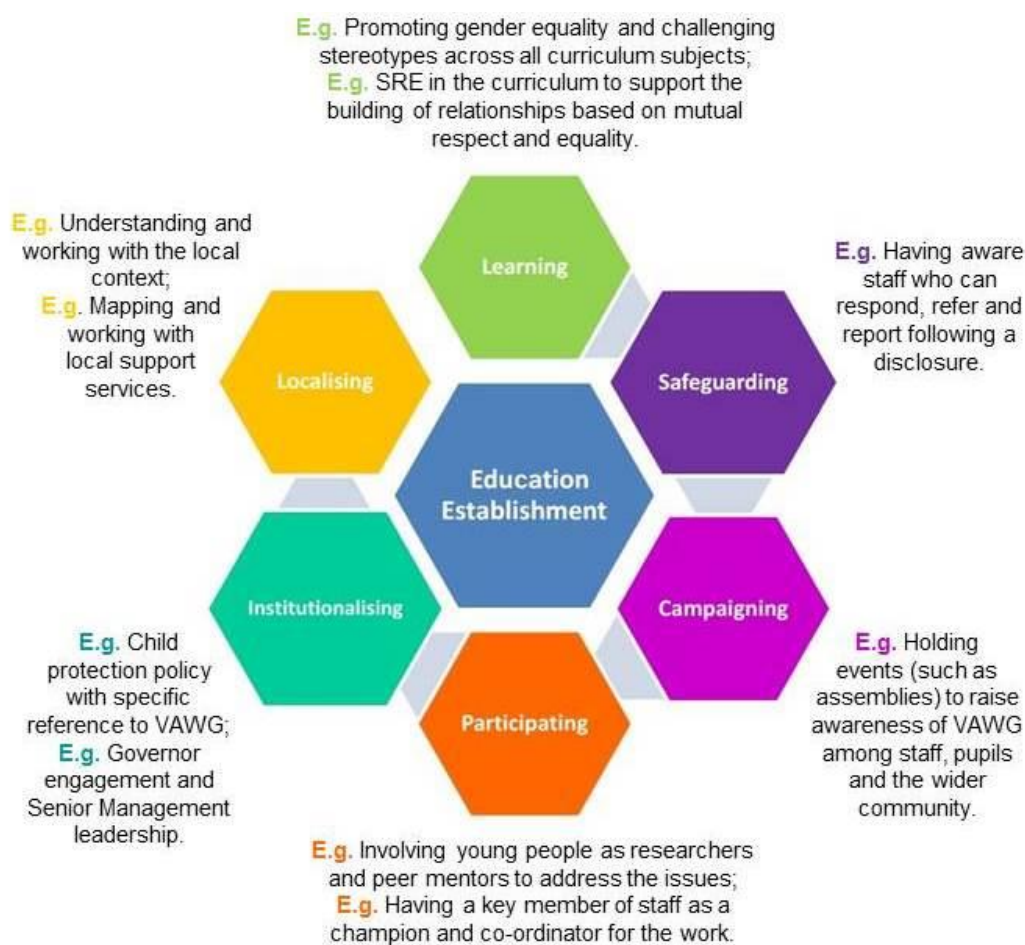
The moral case

There is a strong moral case to deliver prevention education programmes to stop violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Education staff often make the moral argument that, as members of society and people in authority, they have a responsibility to take a stand against inequality and violence.

The 'Whole School Approach'

A *Whole School Approach* (WSA) is a comprehensive way of embedding positive messages and skills to respond to, challenge and prevent violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across the whole school environment. This approach is fully explored in the Welsh Government's *Good Practice Guide: A Whole Education Approach to Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence in Wales 2015* <http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/commsafety/151020-whole-education-approach-good-practice-guide-en.pdf>

Taken from this guidance and found on the [AVA Prevention Platform](#), the diagram below shows the six main components needed to embed the approach.



How to use the accompanying resources

There is information and guidance to accompany this toolkit for primary schools, secondary schools and further education.

This includes advice for working with each specific age group as well as information and links to relevant resources that are currently being used in Wales. The resources were submitted to a national mapping survey which aimed to find out what resources were currently being used in Wales and what could be recommended as promising and good practice.



General advice for schools undertaking prevention work

Before you begin:

- Are you aware of the child protection policies in the school including when and how to refer any concerns? Ensure that policies on sharing information address safety issues for children and parents and know that you only have to share information with parents who have parental responsibility.
- Do you know about the local support services for children, young people and families?
- Have you discussed any concerns about children who may have personal experiences of violence and abuse with the child protection lead? Do you have strategies in place to support them?
- Do you need to tell parents about the content of the lessons?
- Develop supportive group agreements with the students to ensure you create a safe learning environment.
- Ensure the work is undertaken with all children, not just those you know have experienced or are experiencing violence and/or abuse.
- Be aware of how gender relationships, power and respect are modelled by staff in the school.
- Ensure all relevant staff are trained in responding to disclosures. Remember that a child may not choose to talk to the person who delivered the lesson; they may prefer to talk to the school nurse or dinner supervisor.
- Recognise that some school staff may have personal experiences of violence/abuse themselves and that some may be perpetrators of abuse.
- Be ready to hear, respond and refer if someone makes a disclosure of violence/abuse.

If a child/young person discloses domestic or sexual abuse or other forms of violence or you have concerns about them:

- Find a safe time and place to talk about it.
- Explain about confidentiality and why you may have to tell someone else.
- Tell them that this is not their fault and acknowledge how hard it must have been to tell you.
- Validate their experiences and strengths.
- Avoid asking leading questions which could jeopardise a prosecution and do not interrupt when a child is recalling events.
- Note what was said in the child's own words, including times and dates.
- Try to find out if they or others are currently in danger.
- Make it clear that they are not alone (unfortunately this happens to many people) and that there is support for them.



- Show that you understand that experiencing violence /abuse can have many negative impacts on all areas of their life including school. Explain how the school can support them.
- Do report to the designated senior person for child protection. Explain this to the child/young person and emphasise that only teachers who really need to know will be told and that other students will not know.
- After disclosure, keep in contact with the child/young person and follow up on any concerning changes in behaviour.
- Find out about the likelihood of the perpetrator turning up at the school and have a plan in place if this happens. If the perpetrator is another student in the school think about how to manage this safely.

Some support services and useful links

Live Fear Free Helpline and website (Wales) 0808 8010 800 www.gov.wales/livefearfree

The Live Fear Free Helpline, delivered by Welsh Women's Aid and funded by Welsh Government, is a national, confidential, free phone support and information service for anyone experiencing sexual violence, domestic abuse or other forms of violence against women, or for anyone wanting more information on available support services. Open 24 hours, 365 days a year.

All Wales School Liaison Core Programme www.schoolbeat.org/en/

A crime prevention programme funded jointly by the Welsh Government and the four Welsh Police Forces. The main aims of the programme are to work towards achieving crime and disorder reduction within our young communities, through the medium of education, and to promote the principles of positive citizenship, in school and the wider community.

AVA Prevention Platform www.preventionplatform.org.uk

Free e-learning resource to help identify and respond to disclosures of abuse. As violence against women is a complex area there is also a huge toolkit to enable understanding of its different forms, and why and how to challenge and prevent abuse. There is a searchable database of lesson plans and tools for each form of violence against women and for different ages and settings and an interactive map so you can search for local projects.

Barnardo's Cymru www.barnardos.org.uk/wales.htm

Works with vulnerable children, young people, families and communities, helping them to build a better future.

Bawso 0800 731 8147 www.bawso.org.uk

BAWSO is a Wales provider delivering specialist services to people from Black and ethnic minority backgrounds who are affected by domestic abuse and other forms of abuse, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, human trafficking/slavery & prostitution.

Broken Rainbow 0300 999 5428 www.broken-rainbow.org.uk



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A national charity that provides support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans–people experiencing relationship abuse, including a national helpline.

The Children’s Commissioner for Wales 0808 801 1000 www.post@childcomwales.org.uk

www.childcomwales.org.uk

The Children’s Commissioner for Wales is the independent institution for children’s rights in Wales which promotes and safeguards the rights and welfare of all children in Wales and offers an Advice and Support Service to children and young people or those who care for them if they feel a child has been treated unfairly. The Children’s Commissioner for Wales’ officers can either refer you to another organisation or in other circumstances can look at individual complaints.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Helpline – NSPCC 0800 028 3550

Call the FGM helpline if you’re worried a child is at risk of, or has had, FGM. It is free, anonymous and open 24/7.

Forced Marriage Unit 020 7008 0151 www.mu@fco.gov.uk

The Forced Marriage Unit operates a public helpline to provide advice and support to victims of forced marriage as well as to professionals dealing with cases. The assistance provided ranges from simple safety advice, through to aiding a victim to prevent their unwanted spouse moving to the UK (‘reluctant sponsor’ cases), and, in extreme circumstances, to rescues of victims held against their will overseas.

Gender and Education Association www.genderandeducation.com/conferences-and-events/future_events/ forthcoming-gea-sponsored-symposium/

This provides some useful definitions and resources on key terms and up to date research, blogs and conferences around gender equality – including gender violence.³²

Hafan Cymru Spectrum Project 07776 464295 www.hafancymru.co.uk/spectrum/

Hafan Cymru’s domestic abuse schools programme works in primary and secondary schools across Wales to teach children about healthy relationships, abuse and its consequences and where to seek help. The programme includes raising awareness of abuse amongst teachers and teaching support staff, youth workers, and other interested professionals.

Henna Foundation 029 20496920 www.info@hennafoundation.org

A Wales charity working with the Muslim community supporting victims of forced marriage and ‘honour’ related violence.

The Hideout www.thehideout.org.uk

Women’s Aid Federation England have created this space to help children and young people to understand domestic abuse, and how to take positive action if it’s happening to them.

The Intervention Initiative www.uwe.ac.uk/bl/research/InterventionInitiative

The Intervention Initiative is a free resource with an educational toolkit to be used by universities and colleges for the prevention of sexual coercion and domestic abuse in university settings. This programme was developed in 2014 by the University of the West of England with support from Public Health England. It is an evidence-based educational programme for the prevention of sexual coercion and domestic abuse in university settings, through empowering students to act as prosocial citizens.



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New Pathways Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Helpline (Wales) 01685 379 310

www.newpathways.org.uk

New Pathways is a registered charitable company that provides a range of specialist counselling and advocacy services for women, men, children and young people who have been affected by rape or sexual abuse.

NSPCC Childline 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

ChildLine is a private and confidential service for children and young people up to the age of 19. You can contact a ChildLine counsellor about anything -no problem is too big or too small.

Rape Crisis England and Wales 0808 802 9999 (noon - 2.30pm & 7pm - 9.30pm)

rcewinfo@rapecrisis.org.uk www.rapecrisis.org.uk

Rape Crisis England & Wales is a national charity and the umbrella body for a network of independent member Rape Crisis organisations. It offers a range of specialist services for women and girls who have been raped or experienced another form of sexual violence – whether as adults, teenagers or children.

Respect 0808 802 4040 info@respect.uk.net www.respect.uk.net

Respect is the UK membership organisation for work with domestic violence perpetrators, male victims and young people.

Safer Wales Dyn Project 0808 801 0321 info@dynwales.org www.dynwales.org

The Safer Wales Dyn project provides support to Heterosexual, Gay, Bisexual and Trans men who are experiencing domestic abuse from a partner. The helpline is open Monday and Tuesday 10am – 4pm and Wednesday – 10am – 1pm.

Survivors Trust 0808 801 0818 www.thesurvivorstrust.org

The Survivors Trust (TST) is a national umbrella agency for over 135 specialist rape, sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse support organisations throughout the UK and Ireland.

Victim Support 0845 30 30 900 www.victimsupport.org

Victim Support is an England and Wales charity which can help young people if they have been a victim of abuse or violence.

Welsh Women's Aid 02920 514 551 admin@welshwomensaid.org.uk www.welshwomensaid.org.uk

Welsh Women's Aid is the national organisation in Wales working to end domestic abuse and all forms of violence against women. Welsh Women's Aid supports a national federation of local independent charities delivering specialist domestic abuse and violence against women prevention services in Wales, as part of a UK network of provision. These independent specialist services across Wales provide lifesaving refuges, outreach, and community advocacy and support to survivors of violence and abuse - women, men, children, families - and deliver innovative preventative work in local communities.

Welsh Women's Aid also delivers direct services including the Live Fear Free Helpline; a national accredited and non-accredited training service in partnership with specialist services across Wales; refuge and advocacy services in Colwyn Bay and Wrexham; and the national *Children Matter preventative project* which supports



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services to help children and young people in every local authority in Wales. Children Matter delivers the STAR Programme which includes training, support and groupwork to promote whole education and community approaches to prevention of abuse and to minimise its future impact on children and young people.

To access specialist services in local areas across Wales: call the Live Fear Free Helpline on 0808 80 10 800.

The AVA Prevention Platform

The prevention platform has been created to support education practitioners across the UK to develop and deliver a comprehensive programme to stop violence against women and girls. It is based on the specialist knowledge and experiences of teachers, youth workers, service providers and local authority leads from across the country.

There is a free e-learning course to help you understand why we need to talk about these issues and how prevalent they are nationally and internationally. You can also practice how you would talk to a student who was affected by these issues.

The comprehensive toolkit includes:

- Prevention – including how young people learn/primary, secondary and non-formal education settings.
- Campaigning
- Participation
- Working with Parents
- Safeguarding
- Localising and partnerships
- Institutionalising
- Safety advice
- Support services directory
- The huge database of resources, films, activities and lesson plans is searchable by topic and by age/education setting and the interactive map allows you to upload details of your project or search for specialist projects and schools currently undertaking this work in your area.

www.preventionplatform.co.uk